

[Report No. 48.]

JANUARY 23, 1847.

Read twice, and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs.

Mr. SEAMAN, on leave, introduced the following bill :

## **A BILL**

For the benefit of sick and disabled seamen.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2       *of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That*  
3       from and after the passage of this act, all marine hospitals shall  
4       be, and are hereby declared to be, under the direction and man-  
5       agement of the chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery  
6       in the Navy Department, who, with the consent of the Secreta-  
7       ry of the Navy, shall select and appoint superintendents and phy-  
8       sicians to the said marine hospitals, from among the surgeons  
9       and assistant surgeons in the navy, in the same manner as the su-  
10      perintending surgeons and other officers are selected and appoint-  
11      ed in naval hospitals.

1       SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted, That* collectors of ports,  
2       in collecting districts in which naval hospitals exist, but in which  
3       there is no marine hospital, are hereby authorized and directed  
4       to grant admission to all sick and disabled seamen, who may be  
5       entitled to the benefits of the marine hospital fund, into the  
6       naval hospital nearest to or in the limits of their districts, re-

7 spectively; and it shall be and is the duty of the chief of the Bu-  
 8 reau of Medicine and Surgery to direct the superintendents and  
 9 surgeons of said hospitals to receive all sick and disabled seamen  
 10 presenting an order of admission signed by the collector of the  
 11 port, and to provide for them in the same manner as sick and  
 12 disabled seamen and marines are provided for in naval hospi-  
 13 tals, according the laws and usages of the navy.

1        SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the chief of the  
 2 Bureau of Medicine and Surgery shall receive from the marine  
 3 hospital fund, for the benefit of the navy hospital fund, a sum  
 4 not exceeding thirty cents daily for every sick or disabled sea-  
 5 man, admitted by authority of the collectors of ports, for every  
 6 day such merchant seaman may be maintained at the cost of the  
 7 navy hospital fund.

1        SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That the chief of the  
 2 Bureau of Medicine and Surgery shall, in those collection dis-  
 3 tricts in which there is no naval or marine hospital, provide suit-  
 4 able accommodations and attendance, either in private houses or  
 5 hospitals, for such sick or disabled seamen as may be entitled to  
 6 the benefits of the marine hospital fund.

1        SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That any seafaring  
 2 person who may be disabled by disease, age, or injury, on pro-  
 3 ducing satisfactory evidence that he has paid into the marine  
 4 hospital fund, or navy hospital fund, at the rate of twenty cents  
 5 a month for a period not less than twenty entire years, shall be,

6 and is hereby, entitled to permanent relief and maintenance in  
7 any marine or naval asylum or hospital in the United States, un-  
8 der the laws and usages of the navy.

1       SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That at the expiration  
2 of one year after the death of any and all persons who have died  
3 or may hereafter die intestate, while in the navy of the United  
4 States, the Fourth Auditor of the Treasury Department shall  
5 place to the credit of the navy hospital fund all moneys or bal-  
6 ances which may be due by the government to said deceased  
7 persons, and unclaimed by their legal heirs; and said moneys or  
8 balances shall be, and are hereby declared to be, the property of  
9 said navy hospital fund, until legal heirs shall appear. And the  
10 commissioner of the navy hospital fund is hereby authorized and  
11 directed to invest the said fund in securities of the United States,  
12 and also all moneys accruing to said fund in future, excepting so  
13 much thereof as may be required for the erection or necessary  
14 extension and repairs of hospital buildings and tenements, and  
15 the maintenance of naval asylums and hospitals for the use of  
16 the navy.

1       SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the chief of the  
2 Bureau of Medicine and Surgery in the Navy Department shall  
3 be, and is, the sole commissioner of the navy hospital fund, as  
4 well as of the marine hospital fund, and it shall be the duty of  
5 the said commissioner to invest all surplus moneys belonging to  
6 the marine hospital fund in securities of the United States, and

7 also to report annually, to both houses of Congress, the condi-  
8 tion of the navy hospital fund and of the marine hospital fund  
9 for the fiscal year next prior to the date of said report.

1       SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted*, That the commissioner  
2 of the navy and marine hospital funds is hereby authorized to  
3 receive property of any description which may be devised or be-  
4 queathed to either fund, and apply the same as the said funds  
5 are by law directed to be applied and appropriated.

1       SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted*, That all acts or parts  
2 of acts contrary to the provisions of this act shall be, and are  
3 hereby, repealed.

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